



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION IX  
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**JUL - 2 2003**

Mr. Jim Nicholas  
Chief, Division of Transportation Planning  
Department of Transportation  
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
State of California  
Box 942873  
Sacramento, California 94273-0001

RE: Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG) FY 02/03-03/04 FTIP Amendment 11

Dear Mr. Nicholas:

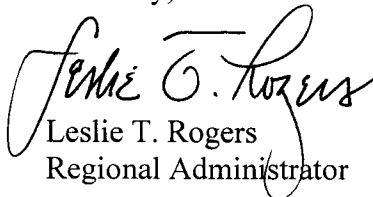
We have completed our review of Amendment Number 11 of the Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG's) 2002/2003-2003/2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for inclusion into California's current Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). This amendment was adopted by MCAG on June 19, 2003.

We accept this amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 as revised by the Metropolitan Planning Rule issued October 28, 1993, and effective November 29, 1993.

We find that this TIP Amendment is based on a continuing, comprehensive, coordinated transportation process in accordance with the provisions of 23 USC 134 and Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC app 1607). The project of this TIP Amendment is categorically exempt from a regional air quality analysis and does not affect MCAG's existing air quality conformity determination.

This letter also constitutes approval of the amended MCAG TIP for inclusion in California's 2002/2003 to 2003/2004 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP), with the understanding that FTA funding approval on individual projects is subject to the grantees meeting the necessary administrative requirements. Our approval is based on Caltrans' assurance that the funding for this amendment is within the revised Financial Plan for the 2002-2004 FSTIP.

Sincerely,

  
Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator

Cc:

Steven Barhite, EPA

Jesse Brown, MCAG

Terry Lewis, MCAG

Sue Kiser, FHWA

Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans

Ted Matley, FTA